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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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West Sacramento Gang Member Convicted of Domestic Violence

(Woodland, CA) –June 24, 2010 – Yolo County District Attorney Jeff Reisig announced today that on June 18, 2010, a Yolo County Jury found Jesse Leonardo Garcia, Jr. guilty of five crimes relating to a 2009 domestic violence incident. Garcia, 26, of West Sacramento is a validated Broderick Boy and was on probation for a gang beating at the time of the domestic violence offense.

On July 30, 2009, Garcia threatened to kill his girlfriend while he was driving her home to Elk Grove. His girlfriend's four year old son was a passenger in the car. Garcia forced her out of the car on the freeway and began to drive away with her son. He allowed her back into the car and then drove back to his home in West Sacramento. On the way back to his home he hit her in the face twice. He later threatened to beat her more if she called police. The victim went into the house, grabbed a butcher knife and put it in her purse. She then took her son and fled on foot to a nearby fire station where the West Sacramento Police Department was called. Three days later, Garcia was recorded, while in custody, talking to the victim and telling her to write a letter to the court saying that the events of that night never occurred.

When reviewing Mr. Garcia's prior cases, which included a gang beating and another domestic violence incident, prosecutors noticed that the victims in those cases had written similar letters to the court attempting to clear Garcia of any wrongdoing. The jury was presented with this information at trial to illustrate Garcia's influence and intimidation with all his victims.

Deputy District Attorney Deanna Hays who prosecuted the case stated, "The jury gave a voice to the current and past victims of the defendant even when the victims themselves were afraid testify against him."

Garcia is set to be sentenced by the Honorable Judge Thomas Warriner on July 30, 2010. He is facing a maximum penalty of 6 years in state prison.

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